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21 September 1960

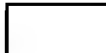
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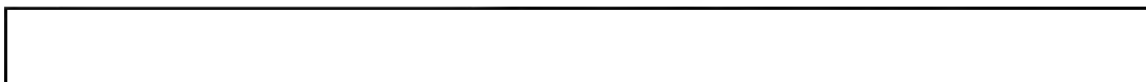
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



DOCUMENT NO. 18
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒
☐ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
AUTH: HM 70-2
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21 September 1960

DAILY BRIEF

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

UAR: The reshuffling of the UAR central and regional government ministries announced yesterday appears to have been an effort by Nasir to settle differences within the Syrian region Executive Council as well as to appease Syrian desires for more representation in Cairo. Five Syrians were named to central government ministries. Syrian Interior Minister Sarraj was named chairman of the Syrian Executive Council, while two of his principal antagonists in the council were assigned new posts. Nasir apparently continues to feel Sarraj is the only one who can handle the problem of the growing dissension in Syria, which could threaten Cairo's control there.

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LATE ITEMS

*Laos: King Savang has invited Laos' military leaders to meet in Luang Prabang in an effort to find a solution to the country's continuing crisis. While the meeting will deal ostensibly with the split in the army, the King reportedly will insist that the participants present their ideas regarding the closely related political situation. Most of the participants in such a meeting would probably side with Phoumi and could be expected to ask for Premier Phouma's resignation, a "solution" the King himself desires but apparently has been reluctant to impose on his own initiative. The prospective participants have not yet responded to the King's invitation, but presumably they will feel constrained to heed his call. Meanwhile, troops loyal to Phoumi apparently have clashed with Vientiane troops about sixty miles east of the capital.

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DAILY BRIEF

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DAILY BRIEF

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Nasir Reshuffles UAR Ministries

Cairo on 20 September announced the reshuffling of the posts of ten members of the UAR central and regional ministries. The changes suggest an effort by President Nasir to settle growing differences in the Syrian region executive council, involving opposition by some members to the heavy-handed tactics of Syrian Interior Minister Sarraj. In addition, a concession to Syrian resentment over Egyptian domination of the central government was made by the appointment of five Syrians to central ministries in Cairo.

[Nasir seems to have reaffirmed his confidence in Sarraj, handing him the chairmanship of the Syrian executive council, vacated by UAR Vice President Kahhalah. At the same time, two of Sarraj's severest critics in the council were assigned to duties which should tend to decrease opportunities for conflict. Syrian Minister of State Jadu Izz al-Din, who had clashed with Sarraj over control of internal security and censorship affairs, apparently has been shunted aside by appointment to the post of Syrian public works minister. Sarraj, besides the chairmanship of the council, obtained the minister of state portfolio. Syrian Minister of Municipal and Village Affairs Tuma al-Awadatallah, who reportedly had violently opposed and insulted Sarraj, received the additional post of central minister of municipal and village affairs, which should keep him in Cairo much of the time.]

Sarraj's accumulation of authority apparently reflects Nasir's continued reliance on him to keep widespread Syrian dissatisfaction with the UAR under control. UAR Vice President Marshal Amir, whom Nasir sent to oversee Syrian affairs last October, has spent the past summer in Egypt and reportedly has no desire to remain involved in the Syrian "mess."

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The Secretary of State

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The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Administration

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